UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

UNDP

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(BGD/79/037)

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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH

Training of Marine Officers (BGD/79/037)

Report of the Administrator*

Date of present approval:	December 1979
Starting date of project activities:	January 1980
Planned completion date:	December 1981
To be executed by:	Inter-governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO)
Government implementing agency:	Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Inland Water Transport)
Estimated cost of assistance planned under present approval:	$264 000
Source of UNDP financing:	Special Measures Fund for Least Developed Countries (LDC)

I. Background

1. The Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC), set up by the Government in February 1972, is implementing a fleet development programme designed to meet the Government's objective of increasing its self-reliance to the extent of carrying 40 per cent of total foreign trade in Bangladesh owned vessels. The country's ocean transportation capacity is expected to increase from the present total fleet

* In accordance with General Assembly Resolution 2688 (XXV) and subsequent authorizations of the UNDP Governing Council, reports are issued seriatim on the approval of UNDP assistance of $250,000 or more (including, if any, assistance financed by Government or by third-party cost sharing).

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strength of 22 vessels to 39 by 1985, at the end of the Second Five-Year Plan. With this number, the Corporation will have reached the half-way point of its targeted fleet development.

2. Qualified national marine officers are needed to man the expanding fleet. Although the Government has recommissioned the Mercantile Marine Academy, Chittagong, with a view to providing pre-sea training to selected officer cadets of the merchant navy, the Academy can meet the requirements of the expanding fleet only partially, so that sixty expatriate officers must still be recruited at a high cost in foreign exchange. The Government has taken various steps to reduce the Corporation's dependency on expatriate officers. Under the project, Nautical and Marine Engineering Survey and Examination (BGD/73/011)[1/], UNDP provided two experts to the Department of Shipping to assist with preparatory courses for various grades of maritime examinations. The same project also provided a fellowship training programme to assist six Bangladesh nationals serving aboard Corporation vessels in obtaining certificates of competence.

3. The Government has requested UNDP assistance, under the present project, to expand the fellowship training programme.

II. Objectives and activities

4. The long-term objective of the project is to build up a viable merchant marine fleet able to service 40 per cent of the foreign trade carried by ocean transport. The short-term objective is to assist in the training of the officers needed for the expanded merchant fleet. To this end the Government will nominate for fellowships 12 officers serving on Corporation vessels who have completed the qualifying sea time for their courses and examinations.

III. Inputs

5. UNDP will provide, through the Executing Agency, fellowship training to 12 officers of the Bangladesh Shipping Corporation at appropriate Nautical/Marine Engineering colleges in the United Kingdom.

6. The Government will make provisions for pay allowances for the fellows during their training abroad.

IV. Financial data

7. The expenditure component of the planned assistance is as follows:

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Training	264 000
	264 000

8. The estimated total value, expressed in US dollars, of the inputs provided directly by the Government to the project is $30 000 in kind.